REMARKS

Applicants note that the Examiner states that the amended claims require a further search and consideration. While this may be true, it does not seem to be attributable to the formalistic amendment to claims 1 and 5 that were submitted in the August 21, 2003 Amendment. While an RCE is being filed, it should not be required in this case. A response from the Examiner is requested.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Rodi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,951,567) in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,483,846). The arguments advanced in support of the Examiner's rejection are the same as those advanced in the Official Action dated January 2, 2003. See pages 2-3 of the outstanding Official Action.

In the "Response for Arguments", the Examiner states "...in claims 1 and 5, the Applicant does not clearly point out transmitting the actual value (reading) as the target reading to the flawlessly operating drives." However, claim 1 states in relevant part:

> "...; and transmitting actual values of the faulty drive as nominal values to faultlessly operating drive."

And the claim states in relevant part:

> "...wherein actual values of a drive detected as having a fault are transmitted by a real-time Ethernet as nominal values to drives that are fault free."

By this amendment, Applicant has deleted the word "nominal" in both claims 1 and 5 and added the word "setpoint." The words "setpoint", "nominal" and "target reading" (the latter used

by the Examiner) are understood to all have the same meaning given the context of the present invention. Nevertheless, "setpoint" is the Applicant's preferred choice of terms to describe the transmitted actual values. Beyond this rather formalistic point, Applicant does not understand what the Examiner contends is not clearly pointed out in claims 1 and 5 that is necessary to distinguish over the Rodi reference.

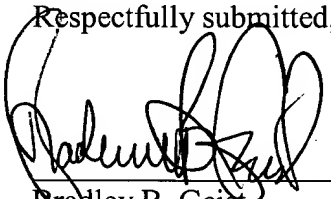
With regard to Huang et al., the Examiner advanced this reference in support of the argument that claims 1 and 5 are obvious since Huang et al. discloses "information transmitted by a real-time Ethernet vial data link (110)." The problem with the Examiner's position is that the deficiencies in the Rodi reference are not supplied by Huang et al. For this reason, Applicant did not and does not now believe it is necessary to delve further in the irrelevance of the Huang et al. reference. Simply put, Rodi does not disclose, teach or suggest the element claimed in both claims 1 and 5, namely that an actual value (reading) of a faulty drive is transmitted as a "setpoint" (nominal/target reading) to the drives that are operating faultlessly. Like Rodi, Huang et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest this claim element. The teaching of transmitting information by a real-time Ethernet via a data link (110) fails to supply the teaching critically absent in Rodi, and recited in claims 1 and 5. For this compelling reason, Huang et al. was not discussed in the response to the Official Action dated January 2, 2003. Further, and as previously explained and apparently not disputed by the Examiner, in Rodi's method a monitoring circuit that detects a fault sends a signal to the main electronic circuit and thereby effects the stoppage of the main drive. This is <u>not</u> the same thing as transmitting the actual value (reading) of the faulty drive to the other flawlessly operating drives.

In view of the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that Rodi "discloses the step of transmitting the actual reading of the faulty drive (such as main drive 6) to the faultlessly

operating drive (such as auxiliary drive 7) via the master controller 56 (see Fig. 1)." To better understand why Rodi et al. is not relevant, Applicant notes that col. 3, lines 8-11 and col. 4, lines 5-15 describes the handling of the stopping of the electrical machine. At col. 3 it is pointed out that at least one program is available that can be selected, and that is used for stopping the printing machine. However, how this stop is carried out, and how the setpoint variable for such a stop is specified is not disclosed in Rodi et al. This, however, is precisely what is important to the present invention, namely that the actual values of a faulty electrical drive (or of a drive that is linked to a family function) are modified depending on processor requirements as needed through at least one mathematical function, and transmitted as a setpoint to the drives that are operating faultlessly. The feature of effecting a stop with the use of actual values of a faulty drive as setpoints for faultlessly operating drives is not disclosed in Rodi et al.

For the reasons advanced hereinabove, and further in view of the formalistic amendment to claims 1 and 5, Applicant respectfully seeks reconsideration on the pending claims and the withdrawal of the present grounds for rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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